



Tribal Wilderness Management Issues

All of the same management issues that face State and Federal wilderness managers are inherent within Tribal wilderness management as well. The following list illustrates some of these “common” issues that exist in the Mission Mountains Tribal Wilderness:

- Manage Grizzly Bear habitats for a sustainable Grizzly population,
- Manage other endangered species and habitats for maintenance of biological diversity,
- Cultural site protection,
- Maintenance of fragile alpine/tundra ecosystem,
- Manage riparian zones for water quality and wildlife protection,
- Manage for Municipal watershed protection,
- Manage and maintain trailless areas for visitor experience quality,
- Manage trail and campsite impacts,
- Fisheries management is weighted to give special attention to waters containing native West Slope Cutthroat Trout and native Bull Trout.

On and above these common issues, are additional management challenges that Tribal wilderness managers must deal with. For example, should non-Tribal members be allowed to enter and enjoy Tribal wilderness lands and resources? See the Mission Mountains Wilderness Case Study excerpt below to learn more about how this- uniquely Tribal wilderness issue- is managed:

Special management direction/regulation, primarily for Non-Tribal members only:

1. Use of any Tribal lands or waters by Non-Tribal members requires the purchase of a Tribal conservation license and the appropriate activity stamp (fish, bird hunt, or camp), this is a requirement for use of wilderness lands.
2. A group size limit of 8 persons and 8 head of livestock is in place for wilderness lands.
3. Use of a campsite for longer than 3 consecutive days is prohibited.
4. It is illegal to carry or use a firearm.
5. Any commercial use of the Tribal Wilderness is not allowed (no outfitting or guides).

Although most resource and visitor use management issues transcend Federal and Tribal wilderness units, Tribal managers are also obligated to carry out strategies that solve unique issues such as the one offered above. This, in some cases, makes Tribal wilderness even more difficult to manage than State or Federally designated areas.